

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and continued examination of this application in view of the amendment and the following remarks. Claims 20-24, 26-29, 32-40, 42-48, 50 and 51 are pending in this application.

1. Status of the Claims

Independent claims 20 and 45 have been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 25 and 49 respectively. Claims 25, 41 and 49 have been canceled. Claims 34-40 have been amended to correct their numbering. Claims 36, 37, 39, 40 and 42-44 have been amended to correct their dependency on the renumbered claims.

2. Claim Objections

Claims 34-40 were objected to as being misnumbered as claims 35-41. Claims 34-40 have been amended to correct the numbering. Hence, this objection is now moot.

3. The Independent Claims Are Patentable As Their Subject Matter Was Previously Indicated As Being Allowable

Claims 25 and 49 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected independent claims 20 and 45. Independent claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25. Independent claim 45 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 49. Thus, independent claims 20 and 45 (and their dependents) are patentable.

Independent claim 38 and dependent claims 39 and 40 were indicated as being allowable if numbered correctly. Claims 42-44, which depend on claim 38, were indicated as being allowable if claims 38-40 were properly numbered. Claims 38-40 are now correctly numbered. Thus, independent claim 38 and its dependents are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims (claims 20-24, 26-29, 32-40, 42-48, 50 and 51) have subject matter previously indicated as allowable and consequently are patentable. An early indication of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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